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INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, APRIL 27, 1978

1. SENATOR JAVITS CHIDES JAPAN (UNCLASSIFIED)

DAS HEGINBOTHAM AND I JOINED DEPUTY STR ALAN WOLFF IN TESTIFYING BEFORE THE SFR SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. OPEN SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY US AND JAPANESE PRESS, AS WELL AS BY JAPANESE EMBOFF. FOLLOWING MY REMARKS, SENATOR JAVITS SAID, "...I HAVE LITTLE FAITH THAT JAPAN WILL HANDLE ITS LARGE SURPLUS CORRECTLY. ...I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC ON JAPAN OPENING ITS DOMESTIC MARKETS. WE MUST FIND AN EXTRA-MARKET MEANS TO TURN OFF THIS SURPLUS, WHICH IS GENERATED BY THE EXPORT-ORIENTED JAPANESE ECONOMY. WE HAVE GIVEN ENOUGH EARNESTS OF REAL FRIENDSHIP WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JAPAN. YOU KEEP WARNING US OF YOUR WAR AGAINST PROTECTIONISM, BUT IT IS NOT US POLICY, IT IS JAPANESE POLICY WHICH IS CREATING PROTECTIONISM IN THE US. AS A GREAT FRIEND OF JAPAN, I MUST ASK JAPAN TO TAKE CORRECT STEPS." I URGED THE SENATOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CAPITOL HILL MAY 2 TO PASS HIS VIEWS DIRECTLY TO HIM.

2. HOUSE HEARINGS ON DOLPHIN RESOLUTIONS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS HELD HEARINGS ON APRIL 24 ON TWO RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO RECENT KILLING OF DOLPHINS BY FISHERMEN ON IKI ISLAND. RESOLUTION BY REP. CORNWELL EXPRESSES CONCERN AT SLAUGHTER OF DOLPHINS AND CALLS ON GOJ TO JOIN IN DISCUSSIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION'S SMALL CETACEAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN JUNE 1978 AND TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE KILLING OF DOLPHINS. RESOLUTION OFFERED BY REP. CONTE URGES GOJ TO REASSESS ITS POLICY OF PERMITTING AND SUBSIDIZING KILLING OF DOLPHINS. WHILE VIRTUALLY ALL WITNESSES AT THIS HEARING SUPPORTED PROMPT PASSAGE OF HOUSE RESOLUTION, IT APPEARS THAT HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE WILL POSTPONE ANY ACTION AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER FUKUDA VISIT AND PERHAPS LONGER. MEANWHILE SENATOR WEIKER HAS INTRODUCED S. RES 438, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO CORNWELL'S RESOLUTION BUT ALSO CALLS ON JAPAN TO COOPERATE IN ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CETACEAN COMMISSION AND TO PASS MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION LAW.

3. KUDOS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE EMBASSY'S REPORT ON JAPANESE DEFENSE THINKING AND ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE VISIT OF JOHN BALLE AND THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN BRANCH BANKING IN JAPAN. WE USED THE TELEGRAM ON DEFENSE THINKING AS THE BASIS FOR A BACKGROUND PAPER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING BOOK FOR HIS MEETING WITH FUKUDA. THE TELEGRAM REPORTING MR. BALLE'S DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO OF THE PROBLEMS FACING US BRANCH BANKING IN JAPAN HIGHLIGHTS AN AREA WE WILL ADDRESS IN COMING MONTHS AS WE CONTINUE TO PRESS THE GOJ TO MOVE TOWARD GREATER RECIPROCITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN EACH OTHERS MARKETS.

4. BEEF FIRE SALE AT MACY'S IN OSAKA (LOU)

WASHINGTON AGENCIES WERE DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT LOWER BEEF PRICES WILL INDEED INCREASE DEMAND FOR HIGH-QUALITY BEEF IN JAPAN. OSAKA-KOBE REPORTED THAT A SPECIAL TEN TON ALLOCATION OF HIGH-QUALITY BEEF FOR SALE AT THE OSAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR (APRIL 19-30) WAS SOLD DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS AT \$7 PER POUND INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL \$16 TO \$20 PER POUND. THE RESULTS WERE, "DEMAND WAS BEYOND OUR WILDEST EXPECTATIONS. SINCE THE OPENING DAY, 'NEW YEAR IN TIMES SQUARE' CONDITIONS HAVE PREVAILED AROUND THE AMERICAN BEEF BAZAAR. ON THE SECOND DAY, SECURITY GUARDS,

CROWD CONTROL ROPE FENCES, AND RATIONING BY PRE-PRINTED

TICKETS WERE INSTITUTED. HUNDREDS OF CUSTOMERS LINED UP BY OPENING TIME EACH DAY." ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION NETWORKS HAVE COVERED THE BAZAAR, AND THE US MEAT EXPORT FEDERATION'S ASIAN DIRECTOR WAS INTERVIEWED ON THE EVENING TELEVISION NEWSCAST OF NHK. THE GOJ, AFTER THIS, SHOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY THAT DEMAND FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF IS CONFINED TO HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS.

MEANWHILE, THE TALKS WITH THE JAPANESE BEEF TEAM VISITING WASHINGTON ARE GOING WELL, AND ASSISTANT STR BARREDA IS CONFIDENT THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT TO INCREASE JAPANESE IMPORTS OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF BY 10,000 TONS. ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINOR PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED IS THE DEFINITION OF "HIGH QUALITY" AND WHETHER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS OR GOVERNMENTS WILL CERTIFY THE QUALITY OF BEEF. VANCE

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